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## From the Desk of the Commander

As we approach the end of 2018, I would like to thank all our members who have supported Post 7 this year and of years past. With your help, we have “hung in there” financially. We have been able to continue our support to Veterans, local elementary schools, and the community. We are “The American Legion Post 7”. We have not and will not, forget what we stand for.

The new year looks promising. I believe 2019, our “100 Year Anniversary“ will be a successful one in many ways. With the continued help of volunteers, members participation of our social events, and the help from our Post Family, my hope is 2019 will be a viewed as a turning point for Post 7.

We have a new Kitchen Staff. They have brought back a “Friday Fish Fry” and daily lunches. They have plans for “Sunday Breakfast and Brunch” and “You Catch It, She Cooks It”.

And as always, our members lounge will only be for our members and their signed in guests. Also, there will not be a cover charge for any entertainment that might be in the lounge.

When you “Toast to the New Year” , maybe you can add Post 7 when you “clink your glass”.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

American Legion Post 7

Commander, Frank Russo

### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS BY HARRY COBLE:**

If you have not renewed your membership for 2019 please do so as soon as possible. Those members who have not renewed their membership by December 31st, 2018, will not be allowed to have Post privileges until their membership is paid.

### **New**

**Winter Bowling League----- Signup Sheet Posted on bullet Board (Gaming Machine Bowling).**

**Winter Pool Tournament---- Signup Sheet--Posted on bullet Board.**

**We have a meeting room available for small groups, contact the Post for more information**

**New Winter hours for lounge Sun to Sat---- Noon til 10 PM**

### **2nd Annual Chili Cook-off**

**First Place winner Kathy Klinger, Second place Bob Starret, Third place Mike Lonergan. Thanks to all who participated.**

## Pool Tournament of Champions Winner

Bob Starrett "Second Place Bob"



## **Thanksgiving Basket Donations**

**The Post has completed its annual Thanksgiving Basket drive. We donated 9 Baskets to Fisher House and 9 Baskets to Our Daily Bread of Tampa Bay. All Baskets went to Veterans.**

## **Toys for Tots Drive by Bob Farrell**

**We will start collecting toys starting November 17th and ending December 17th. The toys collected will go to the Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots Program; which provides Christmas toys to at-risk and underprivileged youth.**

## **Kitchen Update by Tom Vitelli**

**It's Official, "Nauti-Nancy" is running the Kitchen. She is developing New Menus and expanded hours operations. We now have a Friday Night Fish Fry and Seafood Fest. More detail hours of operation to be publish later.**

## **Fund Raising by Bob Farrell**

**Queen of Hearts we had a winner (\$2100+). New Queen of Hearts Pot \$1200, drawing on Saturday Nights.**

## **Entertainment by Tony Incantalupo**

**Band schedule for December:**

**Dec 1 Flashback, Dec 8 True Passion, Dec 15 Encore, Dec 22 True Passion, Dec 29, Flashback, every Wednesday True Passion. Bands Play from 7 PM to 10 PM**

**Pre-New Year's Eve party (Dec 29) tickets are \$20 per person and includes dinner. Tickets are available now, call Tony (727-221-0323).**

## Wall of Honor by Bob Farrell

**The wall is in honor of veterans and others both living and dead— stars are \$25 for 4" engraved with your loved one's info—\$50 for 5" and \$100 for 6"— as an example: In Loving Memory—A1C Mike Gunnels—Kia Vietnam 1969.**



## Schools Update by Tom Vitelli

Frontier Elementary School on Nov14, 9-11 AM Post Officers, Tom Vitelli and Bob Farrell, performed the Flag Folder Ceremony for all grade levels. The all students and their teachers took an active part in the ceremony. With each class we did “The Pledge of allegiance to the Flag” at their request. Gave me and Bob goose bumps listening to them say the Pledge.



All these children we interacted with (many had someone in the family who was a Veteran) were inquisitive, showed love country, respect for the flag, who had Dads, Moms, Grandparents, teachers as heroes. The teachers at these Schools are doing great job at educating the future Leaders of American

Clearwater High School JPOTC Marine Corps Birthday Ball on November 9<sup>th</sup> was a great success.



Ponce DeLeon Elementary School Salute to Veterans Nov 9. Post Offices, Bob Farrell and Tom Vitelli showed the assemble Students the proper way to fold the Flag and the meaning of each fold. We were further Honored by students lining hallways waving American Flags and giving us high fives as we did "The Walk of Fame" with other Veterans. Again, another emotion moment for me and Bob.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS



### School salutes veterans

JIM DAMASKE | TIME

Above, Ponce DeLeon Elementary students hold flags after a veterans appreciation program at the elementary school Friday morning as Vietnam War veterans Air Force gunner Bob Farrell, 70, (front) and Navy E6 Thomas Vitelli, 74, from American Legion Post 7 along with several active duty military members walk through them. Farrell and Vitelli showed the students at the assembly how the American Flag is properly folded and what each fold stands for. There was also singing. After the assembly students lined several hallways and waved flags as the group of veterans, in what they call "the walk of fame," walked through the halls on their way out. "Nobody ever welcomed us home," said Farrell.

## Auxiliary:

**Hopefully everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoyed being with loved ones and friends. And I hope that all thanked any Veterans that they know for the freedom that Americans have been given through the service of all the Men and Women in uniform and their families who supported them. Please remember every day, not just on holidays, to say Thank You to a Veteran and their Families.**

**I realize that we are busy during the Holidays but what a perfect time to pitch in and help our Unit with our projects. We have started clipping coupons again for our troops, so please bring yours in. For those of you who have not played “Got It”, come into the Post and enjoy a Saturday Afternoon with our Post Family – we play every Saturday at 2:00PM – it is a great way to meet new friends and see some that you have not seen in a while. We started “Taco Tuesday” in October, with proceeds going to our Girls State campaign. Tacos are served every Tuesday from 5:30 – 7:30, 3 for \$5.00, we play Trivia and at 7:00, Loren Bell is our DJ, playing all your favorite Songs – come out and dance and meet other members of our Post. A new Pool Tournament will start Sunday, December 2nd at 1:00 and will continue every other Sunday after for the next 24 weeks. There is a \$10 entry fee, double elimination and the Pots will be bigger – another great chance to meet people and have some fun! The Post will have their Christmas Party on Monday December 24th from 1:00 – 6:00PM and if you have some last-minute Christmas shopping, the Auxiliary will be raffling off some great gift baskets to benefit our charities. We will have a Yard Sale on Saturday, January 26, 2019 from 8AM – 1PM. And for the first time in 5 years, the Big Red Bus Bloodmobile will be there during the same hours. More details will be sent out so don’t forget to check your e-mail! Jean Vitelli will be the chairperson for this event and Debbie Starrett will help. We will sell tables and offer Junk in the Trunk spots for \$10 each.**

**If you haven’t been to Post 7 in a while, you are missing a lot of exciting changes – The beautiful “Star Wall” of Veterans in the hall, being one of them. And for those of you who love good food, Nauti- Nancy is in the kitchen!!!**

**Thanks to all the Auxiliary members that have been volunteering and helping with activities throughout the Post. I hope to see some new volunteers to help and make our Post and Auxiliary great again! We could give so much back to our Veterans and Communities if we had more volunteers to help with Poppy Sales, Coupon Clipping, visiting our Schools to make the students aware of what the American Legion does and what our American Flag stands for, and so much more.**

**We need fresh ideas for our fundraisers and fun events at our Post. Please e-mail me your suggestions and ideas – [susan.russellforvets14@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.russellforvets14@yahoo.com), or call me, (727) 458-2118. I look forward to hearing from you and please try to join us at our next meeting, Thursday, December 20th, 7:00PM at Post 7.**

**For God and Country,**

**Susan Russell**

**Unit 7 Auxiliary President**

For God and Country

Tom Vitelli  
The Editor

